(b) what is he present number of LPG conncections existing in the city ; and

(c) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) 87,000 (approx.)

(b) 2,13,800 (approx.)

(c) Efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections to as many applicantss as early as possible subject to availability of LPG.

Oil exploration off Pondicherry coast

2195. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil exploration activity off the Pondicherry-Cuddalore coast is likely to be called off shortly ;

(b) since when the drilling in the area has been going on and wha; are the results so far ; and

(c) what are the reasons for calling off the activities ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Explora'ory drilling in this area started with the drilling of first well in July '78, which proved dry. In the last two years 4 wells have been drilled without establishing any hydro-carbon reserves.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring or ONGC and Oil

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the structure of ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) to improve its functioning ;

(b) if so, the details (hereof ;

(c) whether Government also propose to promote the private sector participation in these two PSUs ;

(d) if so, the derails thereof ; and

(e) by when the structure of these two PSUs is likely to be changed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) and (e) Government have constituted a Committee to examine all organisational aspects of ONGC and recommend any strueural change The Committee is expected to submit i;s report by 31-8-1992. There is no proposal to restructure Oil India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting list for LPG in Madhya Pradesh

2197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new LPG connections have no; been released to the waiting consumers in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last several years ;

(b) if so, what are the derails thereof and the cut off dates for release of LPG connections in 45

districts of the State upto which the connections have been provided ;

(c) the number of persons registered alongwith their names for LPG connections in the State who are stilt in the waiting list ; and

(d) by when Government propose to provide LPG connections to alt the registered persons in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 3.81 lakh as on 1-4-1992.

(d) Efforts axe cons anily on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible, subject. to availabiliy of produc:.

Exploration of Tapti Gas fields

2198. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : '
SHRI ANANTHA DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to I he answer ; o Unstarred Question No. 2174 given in the Rajya Sabha on I kh March, 1992 and state :

(a) what is the Eighth Plan allocation for exploration of Tayti Gas fields and h: gas likely to be allocated therefrom to Gujarat : and

(b) what would be the gas allocation therefrom of the power project s of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and

(b) No decision has been taken to develop the Tapti gas fields.

Allocation of Petroleum Product Dealerships

2199. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of dealerships awarded by various oil companies to sell petroleum products from the discretionary quota of the Minister during the last one year till date statewise and itemwise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : From July, 1991,till30thJune, 1992, ninetPen retail outlets, forty nine I LPG dis ributorships and eleven i SKO/LDO dealerships were allot ed by he Government at their discretion. As discreionary allotments are made by the Government on compassionat e grounds, the issue of State-wise allocation does not arise.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

2200. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL :
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI
i PATEL :
SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT :

Will 'he Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to allocate kerosene as per the earlier practice of seven to seven and a half per cent growth rate ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.